



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Indian Policy and Support Services

P.O. Box 45105, Olympia, Washington 98504-5105

October 15, 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing this letter to follow up on the October 8, 2009 letter scheduling the Consultation for the state's 1915(b) Freedom of Choice waiver, more commonly known as the Regional Support Network (RSN) waiver. The Department of Social and Health Services, Health & Recovery Services Administration (HRSA) has made a commitment to consult with tribes about the RSN waiver, and reaffirm the consultation will be held December 3, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Lookout Conference Room at OB2. The meeting is scheduled as required by CMS and administration policy for consultation with tribes prior to the waiver submission. In addition we would like to place the issue of access to services for American Indian Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Medicaid clients on the agenda.

Mental Health/Medicaid services in Washington State are provided through a capitated managed care system. By WAC, all mental health services for Medicaid recipients are provided through the RSN network. Tribal members have been allowed to opt out of this network and use Tribal facilities for outpatient services due to their access to full federal funding.

In a meeting held with tribal representatives, September 10, 2009 at the Great Wolf Lodge, it was made clear that the service gaps and variability for access to RSN services by tribal members across the state were huge. Adding to the complexity for tribes is the need to work with a county RSN structure. This negates the direct government to government relationship between the state and tribes. I would like to use these meetings to plan for the future of Medicaid mental health services with tribes and for AI/AN Medicaid clients in Washington State.

We have scheduled two planning meetings;

Thursday, October 22nd

11:00 AM (expected to last 2 -2 ½ hours) at the OB2, Room SL-04.

Tuesday, November 17th 2009

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - OB2, Room SL-04.

For those wishing to participate by phone, please call (360) 407-3780 and use pin code 251724#

October 15, 2009
Page Two

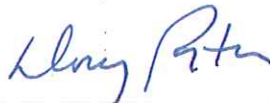
To review the current proposal for the Section 1915(b) RSN waiver, please go to;
[http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/mh/Waiver 2008 2010 PIHP NEW %200408 with final revisions.pdf](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/mh/Waiver_2008_2010_PiHP_NEW_%200408_with_final_revisions.pdf)

If you have any questions or need further information on the Section 1915(b) RSN waiver, please contact Gregg Twiddy at 360-725-1874, Gregory.Twiddy@dshs.wa.gov or Melena Thompson, at 360-725-1073, Melena.Thompson@dshs.wa.gov.

If you have questions regarding the meetings, please contact Deb Sosa at 360-725-1649 or Deborah.Sosa@dshs.wa.gov.

We wish to reaffirm our commitment to partnering with the tribes on health issues for our AI/AN Medicaid clients.

Sincerely,



Doug Porter
Assistant Secretary

cc: Colleen Cawston
David Dickinson
Roger Gantz
MaryAnne Lindeblad
Shirley Munkberg
David Reed
Deb Sosa
Greg Twiddy